

function label during operation of the digital imaging device to automatically guide a user through operation of the digital imaging device; and

e)d) automatically changing the predefined function assigned to the first function key and the mode-specific function label based on conditions existing in the digital imaging device.

10 (Once Amended) The method of claim 9 further including the step of:

f)e) manually changing the predefined function assigned to the first function key by pressing a menu key.

15 (Once amended) ~~A digital imaging device as in claim 14 further including A~~
digital imaging device comprising:

an imaging device for capturing image data;

a memory coupled to the imaging device for storing the image data as captured images;

a display for displaying a captured image;

a processor coupled to the imaging device and to the memory for controlling operation of the digital imaging device and for operating the image device in at least two operating modes;

at least one overlay bar displayed on the display, the at least one overlay bar including a translucent background and a combination of mode-specific status information and interactive instructions, wherein the interactive instructions automatically guide a user through a mode-specific operation; and

a set of soft keys, wherein the at least one overlay bar further displays soft key labels to indicate which one of a plurality of functions is assigned to the corresponding soft key, wherein in response to a user pressing a first one of the soft keys, the processor applies the function assigned to the first one of the soft keys to ~~the~~ a first captured image.

A